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Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons

Working paper submitted by Pakistan

A. To be included in the "Introduction" section

There is a need to devote greater attention to the threat to global and regional peace and stability posed by the expansion, proliferation and increasing sophistication of conventional weapons, which may lead to imbalance in conventional force capabilities at regional levels, especially in regions of tension. The international community may, therefore, identify and implement measures to address the problem of conventional weapons control and disarmament in a comprehensive and credible manner.

Conflict prevention and sustainable and equitable development are mutually reinforcing activities. Investment in national and international efforts for conflict prevention must be seen as simultaneous investment in sustainable development since the latter can best take place in an environment of sustainable peace.

B. To be included in the section entitled "The way ahead"

For effective confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons, the following measures are recommended:

- **First**: Convening of an international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, for the prevention of the development and deployment of sophisticated conventional weapons which may have a destructive impact on human lives and on the environment. The proposed conference should adopt a programme of action that proposes non-discriminatory guidelines for the control of advanced conventional weapons, taking into account the principle of equal and undiminished security at the lowest level, balanced reduction in military budgets, opposition to policies of hegemony, domination, interference and aggression, and adherence to the peaceful settlement of disputes

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- **Second**: The Conference on Disarmament should consider the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control. These principles could include, inter alia, affirmation of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, non-intervention in any form in the internal affairs of States, undiminished security at the lowest levels of armaments and armed forces, the preservation of balance in the defence capabilities of States, the compatibility of armament and military spending levels with legitimate self-defence requirements, etc.

- **Third**: Early implementation of the agreed guidelines and confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its previous sessions

- **Fourth**: Conflict prevention under Chapter VI of the Charter. In this regard, the means described in the Charter for the peaceful settlement of disputes are important instruments for conflict prevention, including such means as negotiations, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement and others, as set forth in Article 33 of the Charter, and the implementation of all Security Council resolutions, pursuant to Article 25 of the Charter

- **Fifth**: Full implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

- **Sixth**: Removal of discriminatory restrictions on the transfer of dual-use technologies

- **Seventh**: Promotion of equitable and effective security and disarmament at the regional level, while responding to the specific concerns and characteristics of each region

- **Eighth**: Regional confidence-building measures such as:

(a) Agreement on the non-use of force under any pretext and to strengthen regional peace and security at the lowest level of armaments and military forces;

(b) Conventional arms balance to mitigate the negative implications arising from the accumulation of conventional weapons beyond the legitimate self-defence requirements of States;

(c) Agreement on ways and means to eliminate the capabilities for large-scale offensive action, surprise attacks or aggression;

(d) A political mechanism for the resolution of disputes;

(e) Provision of adequate notification of flight tests of missiles;

(f) Moratorium on the acquisition and deployment of anti-ballistic missile systems.

- **Ninth**: United Nations role in conducting independent studies and analyses concerning disarmament issues should be strengthened.